

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: TIME MAGAZINE ARTICLE ON AMBASSADOR DE ROULET

FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARS IN AUGUST 6 ISSUE OF TIME MAGAZINE:

OUR MAN IN KINGSTON

DURING HIS FOUR YEARS AS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA, MILLIONAIRE BUSINESSMAN VINCENT DE ROULET DID NOT EXACTLY KEEP A LOW DIPLOMATIC PROFILE. HE KEPT HIS 90-FT. LUXURY YACHT "PATRINA" DOCKED IN SUNNY KINGSTON HARBOR. HE HAD 17 RACE HORSES AND RAN THEM AT THE LOCAL CAYMAN TRACK. IN HIS GRAY CHECKER LIMOUSINE LAY A CUSHION WITH THE INSCRIPTION: "THIS IS MY CAR AND I SIT WHERE I PLEASE."

A NIXON APPOINTEE WHO CONTRIBUTED \$29,000 TO REPUBLICANS LAST YEAR, DE ROULET, 47, WAS NO STICKLER FOR DIPLOMATIC DECORUM. HE LIKED TO VENT HIS CONSERVATIVE VIEWS IN PITHY ASIDES, AND SEVERAL TIMES WAS OVERHEARD REFERRING TO ISLANDERS AS NIGGERS. "HE LOVED DOGS MORE THAN HUMANS,"

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A JAMAICAN OFFICIAL SAID, RECALLING THAT FOR THE RETURN

OF ONE OF HIS LOST PETS (A MONGREL DOG) THE AMBASSADOR
ONCE OFFERED \$500, WHICH IS MORE THAN MANY JAMAICANS EARN

IN A YEAR. DE ROULET RATTLED JAMAICANS EVEN MORE BY
TELLING A ROTARY CLUB LUNCH GATHERING THAT THE VISA SEC-
TION OF HIS EMBASSY HAD NO REST ROOMS BECAUSE "JAMAICANS
TAKE PLEASURE IN FLOODING OUR TOILETS."

ALL THIS PERHAPS MIGHT HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN IF DE ROULET
HAD DISPLAYED EVEN MODEST TALENTS OF DISCRETION. BUT
THAT SEEMED BEYOND HIM, AS HE MADE ALL TOO CLEAR TO A
SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONAL
CORPORATIONS A FORTNIGHT AGO. DE ROULET CLAIMED IN A
PUBLIC HEARING THAT HE HAD MADE A "DEAL" WITH JAMAICA'S
NEW AND PROGRESSIVE PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY, 49,
BEFORE LAST YEAR'S ELECTION. IN EXCHANGE FOR A PERSONAL
GUARANTEE THAT MANLEY WOULD NOT NATIONALIZE THE U.S.-
OWNED BAUXITE INDUSTRY, DE ROULET SAID, HE HAD PROMISED
NOT TO INTERVENE IN THE ELECTIONS. MANLEY PROMPTLY DENIED
THE TALE, POINTING OUT THAT AT NO TIME DURING HIS CAMPAIGN
HAD HE THREATENED TO NATIONALIZE FOREIGN COMPANIES. THEN
HE DECLARED DE ROULET "PERSONA NON GRATA" -- THE FIRST
TIME ANY U.S. DIPLOMAT HAS BEEN SO CHASTISED IN JAMAICA'S
TEN-YEAR INDEPENDENT HISTORY. AN EDITORIAL TITLED "NO
TEARS" IN THE JAMAICAN DAILY NEWS POINTEDLY COMMENTED:
"WHAT THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO KNOW IS WHY THE AMBASSADOR WAS
ALLOWED TO REMAIN AS LONG AS HE DID." ROGERS

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